We all have emotions, but where do they come from? In this talk, I will draw on evidence from infants and congenitally deaf individuals, as well as cross-cultural data, to show that some emotional states are associated with discrete, innate expressions. These expressions, like other aspects of emotions, are adaptations which have evolved to help us deal with recurring challenges and opportunities, and are modulated by learning. I will argue that our understanding of what emotions are should include a functional perspective centred around emotion preparedness.